

IN THE DRAWING:

Please enter the replacement sheet for the first sheet of drawings, the replacement sheet deleting Figure 7 with Figure 1 remaining.

REMARKS

In response to the official action of June 13, 2006, claims 1-10 have been cancelled with claims 11-16 newly presented. Independent claim 11 replaces independent claim 1 and for reasons presented below is believed to be distinguished over the cited prior art. Support for claims 11-16 is found in originally submitted Figures 1-6 as well in the specification including page 4, line 22 through page 8, line 9.

Figure 7 has been deleted from the application as well as reference thereto in the specification at pages 4 and 8.

The abstract has been amended to remove the use of "said".

Referring now to paragraph one of the official action, the drawings are believed to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Corrected drawings are not believed to be necessary in view of the newly submitted claims.

The objection to the abstract as recited at paragraph 2 of the official action has been corrected.

The rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph are believed to be overcome by cancellation of these claims and the submission of new claims 11-16. The new claims are believed to have proper antecedent basis for the terms used therein.

Referring now to paragraphs 8-10 of the official action, it is respectfully submitted that the newly submitted claims are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent 4,971,747, Sorensen in view of any one of U.S. Patent 4,539,171, 4,400,341, 4,990,299 further in view of U.S. Patent 3,843,294. The Office argues that Sorensen '747 teaches an injection molding machine substantially as claimed in claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, except for the locks being adjusted between a first position wherein only a central tool part and a front tool part are locked together and a second position wherein only a central tool part and a rear tool part are locked together. Claim 11 specifically claims a centrally located channel which is located in the front part of the tool and continues within the central part of the tool. It also specifies that the channel has a conical shape

within the front part of the tool as well as in the central part of the tool and a lock which can be moved between first and second positions wherein two of the front part, central part and rear part of the tool are respectively locked together with a residual force respectively and that the moving of the lock between the first and second positions is performed by the pressure generator. Claim 11 also recites a conventional injection molding machine, with the tool dedicated thereto.

Sorensen '747 discloses five parts 10 to 14 with four cavities 16 to 19 (see figure 1 thereof). In Sorensen, the molding material is supplied via a channel 37 which is positioned at the bottom of the parts 10-13. This channel is not centrally located in the front part of the tool which extends from an inlet area to the first separation plane and continues to the second separation plane within the central part of the tool. As a result, the device disclosed in Sorensen would most likely not be usable with a conventional injection molding machine as is disclosed and claimed in claim 11.

Furthermore, channel 37 in Sorensen is cylindrical in shape throughout its entire length. Sorensen '747 does not disclose or suggest a conical shape for the channel within the front part of the tool as well as in the central part of the tool. As a result, Sorensen '747 discloses use of snorkels 35 and 36 within the device for apparent heating of the molding material (see column 4, line 62 through column 5, line 24). In addition, Sorensen '747 needs valves 22 and 26 to block the mold material alternatingly.

Finally, although Sorensen '747 mentions a clamping unit 29 and locking systems 31 and 32 (see column 3, line 67 through column 4, line 2), no details of these elements are described or shown in the specification or drawings of Sorensen '747. Claim 11 specifically points out a lock which can be moved between first and second positions where the lock is located on the parts of the tool where after lifting of the pressure from the pressure generator only the central part and front part of the tool that contains the inlet area of the channel are locked together when the lock is in the first position and in the second position only the central part and the rear part of the tool are locked together with a residual force respectively and wherein the moving of the lock between the first and second positions is done by the pressure generator. None of these elements as recited are believed to be disclosed or suggested by Sorensen '747 and are not believed to be found in the secondary

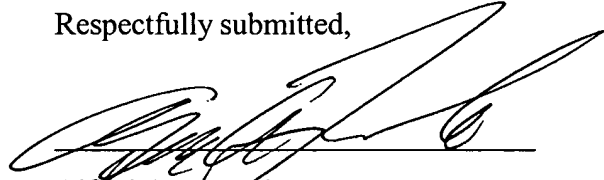
references cited by the Office. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is not unpatentable over Sorensen '747 in view of any one of Sorensen (U.S. Patent 4,539,171) Sorensen (U.S. Patent 4,400,341) and Sorensen (4,990,299) and further in view of Bielfeldt (U.S. Patent 3,843,254).

Since claim 11 is believed to be distinguished over the cited prior art it is respectfully submitted that claims 12-16, all of which ultimately depend from claim 11, are further distinguished over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 13, 2006



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